

## Dealing with Doubt

On Sunday, pastor Tim Dunn from Heartland Church in Indianapolis was our special guest. In his message, he shared with us some key principles for how to deal with doubt.

### John the Baptist and His Doubt – Matthew 11:1-11

Early in his ministry, John baptized Jesus, and at that time, John was convinced that Jesus was the promised Messiah, but at the time of Matthew 11, John is in prison facing his own execution, and Jesus isn't doing anything about it. How do you think John felt? Have you ever been in a similar situation?

According to Pastor Tim, doubts get destructive when doubters congregate around their doubts, when they don't doubt their doubts, or when they get stuck in their doubts and become skeptics. What do you think about those three destructive ways to deal with doubt? Have you seen people deal with doubt in one of those destructive ways?

John the Baptist brought his doubts to Jesus. How did Jesus respond? Did he criticize John and his doubts?

What do you notice in Jesus' response to John?

Do you think Jesus' response to John would have been satisfactory to John? Why or why not?

*Jesus was encouraging John in a way that would have been very special to John because Jesus was connecting himself to the Old Testament prophets and their predictions of the coming Kingdom. Basically, Jesus was saying, "If you look closely, you will see that what you have been hoping for is actually happening even though it's happening in a way you didn't expect."*

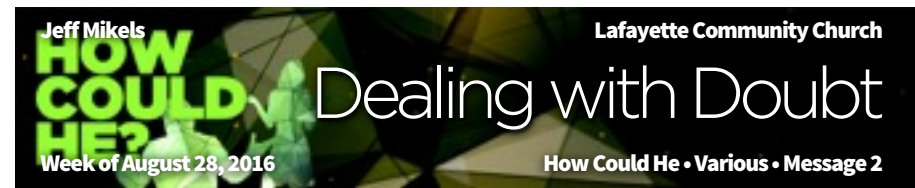
Has God ever done something in your life that was exactly what you needed, but because it came in a way you didn't expect, it was hard for you to receive it? Have you ever been disappointed with God only to later discover that what he was doing was exactly the right thing? Share about that time.

After John's disciples left, Jesus made some glowing remarks about John. What do you think about what Jesus said?

### Take it Home

What doubts have you had and how did you deal with them?

What doubts do you have and how are you dealing with them?



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